

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9329

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SUBJ: OECD SECRETARIAT ATTENDANCE AT GATT MEETINGS

REF: A. STATE 065972

B. USOECD 9709

C. C(73)66

1. SUMMARY. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF QUESTION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECIPROCAL OBSERVER STATUS OF GATT AND OECD SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL AT MEETINGS OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS, (A) OECD COUNCIL EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT OECD SECRETARIAT SHOULD ATTEND PREPCOM MEETINGS, (B) VAN LENNEP WITHDREW FOR TIME BEING PROPOSED LETTER TO LONG (REF C) AND URGED INSTEAD THAT DELS ASSURE THAT PRACTICAL SOLUTION IS FOUND, AND (C) SEC GEN SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH DELS ON MATTER AND KEEP OPEN POSSIBILITY OF RAISING IT AGAIN IN COUNCIL. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. VAN LENNEP OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT AFTER REFLECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEND PROPOSED LETTER (REF C) TO LONG. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER OECD SECRETARIAT

ATTENDANCE AT GATT MEETINGS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ORGANIZATION AND MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT THAT AT THIS STAGE HE FELT IT WAS PREFERABLE FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENSURE PRACTICAL SOLUTION THROUGH OWN EFFORTS.

3. ALL DELS WHO SPOKE FAVORED CONTINUED APPLICATION OF 1961 AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL OBSERVER STATUS FOR SECRETARIATS AT MEETINGS OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND SEVERAL INCLUDING SWEDEN, JAPAN AND BELGIUM FELT CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO SECRETARIATS MORE NECESSARY NOW AND IN FUTURE THAN IN PAST. DESPITE UNANIMOUS EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED APPLICATION OF 1961 AGREEMENT, DELS WERE NOT UNIFIED IN THEIR VIEWS ON HOW BEST BRING ABOUT THAT RESULT, IN LIGHT OF LONG'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.

4. IN BITINGLY SARCASTIC STATEMENT, FRENCH DEL (VALERY) NOTED THAT NO ONE HAD TOLD LONG TO STAY AWAY FROM OECD MEETINGS. WHY, HE ASKED, IS OECD BEING TOLD TO STAY AWAY FROM GATT MEETINGS. IT WAS ABSURD. INTERNATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID, WERE NOT LIKE CHURCHES WITH BISHOPS AND ARCHBISHOPS, BUT CREATURES OF GOVERNMENTS THEY SERVED. SINCE NO GOVERNMENT, SO FAR HE WAS AWARE, HAD REQUESTED ANY CHANGE IN 1961 RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED, HOPEFULLY WITHOUT HAVING TO SEND A GUN BOAT TO GENEVA. CANADIAN DEL STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INSTRUCTED ITS GENEVAL DEL ON TWO OCCASIONS TO INFORM LONG OF CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR OECD SECRETARIAT OBSERVER STATUS AT PREPCOM AND OTHER IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN FRAMEWORK OF GATT. ECHOING SENTIMENTS OF FRENCH DEL, CANADIAN DEL SAID THAT LONG HAD INITIATED CAMPAIGN TO EXCLUDE OECD SECRETARIAT FROM PREPCOM AND MTN MEETINGS AND HAD BLOWN QUESTION ALL OUT OF PROPORTION.

5. BELGIAM AND EC DELS FELT THAT ONE REASON FOR CONFUSION ATTENDING THIS QUESTION WAS THAT OECD MEMBER COUNTRY DELS IN GENEVA HAD USED DIFFERENT VERBAL FORMULATION IN EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS TO LONG, THEREBY ENABLING LONG TO SAY THAT OECD COUNTRIES WERE NOT UNIFIED ON QUESTION. TO DISPEL APPEARANCE OF DISUNITY, BELGIAN SUGGESTED COUNCIL MIGHT CONSIDER AGREEING TO IDENTICAL ORAL OR WRITTEN DEMARCHES TO LONG BY ALL OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES. WHILE NOTING EC SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED APPLICATION 1961 AGREEMENT, EC DEL SAID NINE WOULD BE MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN BRUSSELS SHORTLY TO INSURE THAT COMMON POSITION ESPOUSED BY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES IN GENEVA.

6. SEVERAL DELS INCLUDING SWEDEN, JAPAN AND DENMARK THOUGHT BEST WAY RESOLVE QUESTION WAS FOR SEC GEN AND SECRETARIAT TO CONTINUE THEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH LONG ON PRACTICAL MEASURES TO INSURE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO SECRETARIATS. RESPONDING TO FOREGOING SUGGESTION, VAN LENNEP SAID CONTACTS BETWEEN SECRETARIATS

HAD NOT UP TO NOW RESOLVED QUESTION. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, HE FELT, THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES UNANIMOUSLY INFORM LONG IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS OF THEIR WISH THAT SECRETARIAT BE PRESENT AS OBSERVER AT IMPORTANT GATT MEETINGS INCLUDING PREPCOM. HE ALSO MENTIONED DANGER THAT, IF EMPHASIS PUT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN SECRETARIATS, LONG WOULD SEIZE ON THIS FORMULATION TO INSTRUCT GATT SECRETARIAT TO INFORM OECD SECRETARIAT OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT INVITING OECD SECRETARIAT TO MEETINGS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. FOR HIS PART, IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR OECD TO BE PRESENT AT MEETINGS RATHER THAN GET SECOND HAND REPOSTS ON THEM FROM GATT SECRETARIAT. VAN LENNEP ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT COPY OF PROPOSED LETTER TO LONG (REF C) HAD FOUND ITS WAY TO GATT SECRETARIAT AND HAD BEEN CONTESTED BY LONG ON GROUNDS THAT PREPCOM AND MTN WERE NOT GATT MEETINGS, BUT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHO ASKED GATT SECRETARIAT TO SERVICE THEM.

7. US REP MADE POINTS IN REF A AND INDICATED THAT US DEL IN GENEVA HAD INFORMED LONG THAT US FAVORED ATTENDANCE OECD SECRETARIAT AT PREPCOM.

8. VAN LENNEP SUMMED UP DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS WITH AGREEMENT OF COUNCIL: (A) PROPOSED LETTER (REF C) HAD BEEN FORMALLY WITHDRAWN FROM COUNCIL CONSIDERATION; (B) COUNCIL EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT OECD SECRETARIAT SHOULD ATTEND PREPCOM IN OBSERVER STATUS; (C) MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WOULD INFORM GOVERNMENTS OF DISCUSSION AND REFLECT ON MATTER, AND (D) SECGEN WOULD KEEP QUESTION UNDER REVIEW IN CONSULTATION WITH DELS AND PERHAPS RAISE IT GAIN IN COUCIL IF NECESSARY.

9. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION LAST EVENING, NORWEGIAN PERMREP TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT HIS GENEVA COLLEAGUE TO EFFECT THAT EC AND U. S. WERE OPPOSED TO OECD OBSERVER STATUS AT PREPCOM. WE ARE IN DARK ABOUT WHAT IS REAL SITUATION IN GENEVA. IF THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FACING LONG, WE WOULD HOPE HE COULD BE URGED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DISCUSS THEM CONSTRUCTIVELY RATHER THAN PURSUING PRESENT TACTICS, WHICH RISK BREAKING OFF RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED MANY YEARS AND WHICH HAS APPEARED MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS.
BROWN

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